

Amendments to the claims:

1. (currently amended) ~~An improved~~ supporting structure for a planar heat pipe, comprising:

a housing, including an upper lid and a lower lid engaged with each other to form a hollow chamber allowing a work fluid to be introduced therein; and

a support member, ~~includes~~ including a planar member perforated with a plurality of perforation regions, the support member being sintered with the upper and the lower lids in the hollow chamber by power metallurgy;

wherein perforation regions being in fluid communication with each other further comprising a first perforation region located at a center of the planar member, a plurality of second perforation regions extending around the first perforation region, and a plurality of third perforation regions extending between the second perforation region and a periphery of the planar member.

2. (cancel)

3. (cancel)

4. (original) The structure according to Claim 3, wherein the second perforation regions extend as a cross to define four diagonal areas for forming the third perforation regions, and the planar member further comprises a plurality of ribs to isolate the first, second and third perforation regions from each other, each of the ribs comprises a channel recessed from a top surface of the rib to provide the fluid communication.